

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193908

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC, MX, VS

SUBJECT: AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIET-NAM

REF: PEKING 1521, MEXICO 7219

1. JOHN AND CAROLYN MILLER AND THEIR DAUGHTER LUANNE MILLER WERE AMONG A GROUP OF FOREIGNERS CAPTURED MARCH 10, 1975 WHEN THE NVA OVERRAN BAN ME THUOT, THE CAPITAL OF DARLAC PROVINCE IN THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS OF VIET-NAM. OTHERS CAPTURED WERE JAY SCARBOROUGH, A STUDENT; PAUL STRUHARIK, AN EMPLOYEE OF USAID; MISSIONARIES RICHARD AND LILLIAN PHILLIPS; BETTY MITCHELL, ALSO A MISSIONARY;

CANADIAN MISSIONARIES NORMAN AND JOAN JOHNSON; AUSTRALIAN RADIO TECHNICIAN PETER WHITLOCK; AND FILIPINO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER ENRIQUE TOLENTINO. WE BELIEVE ALL THESE
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PERSONS ARE BEING HELD IN A CAMP IN THANH AN DISTRICT,

PLEIKU PROVINCE, 230 MILES NORTH OF SAIGON. IN ADDITION, JAMES LEWIS, A CONSULAR OFFICER OF THE FORMER US CONGEN IN NHA TRANG, WAS CAPTURED APRIL 17 IN PHAN RANG, AND ARLO GAY, A RETIRED MERCHANT SEAMAN, WAS CAPTURED IN THE MEKONG DELTA AFTER THE FALL OF SAIGON.

2. THE MILLERS WORKED FOR THE SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS AND WERE ENGAGED IN LINGUISTIC RESEARCH LEADING TO PRODUCTION OF BIBLES IN THE LOCAL LANGUAGES. IN VIET-NAM, MUCH OF THEIR EFFORTS FOCUSED ON LINGUISTIC RESEARCH ON THE LANGUAGES OF THE DIFFERENT HIGHLAND (MONTAGNARD) PEOPLES.

3. YOU MAY PASS ALL OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION TO THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR AND TELL HIM THAT THE USG WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE ANY ASSISTANCE THE MEXICAN AMBASSADOR CAN RENDER TOWARDS SECURING THE RELEASE OF THESE PRISONERS. KISSINGER

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NNN

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